

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A stopper for a tube-shaped specimen containers container, comprising an inserting section that is pushed into an opening of a tube-shaped specimen and a closing section, wherein the inserting section is configured to be fitted into the container, and wherein the closing section that continues with the inserting section and has a flat surface that is brought into intimate contact with a rim of the opening, and an operating section that continues with the closing section and operates to insert/remove the inserting section into/from the opening is configured to close an opening of the container,

wherein the inserting section is being formed of an elastically-deformable liquid-tight member; and an comprising a cylindrical body and a tapered annular flange section is projected from an outer surface of a the cylindrical body such that a periphery of the tapered annular flange section is liquid-tightly pressed on an inner surface of the opening of the tube-shaped specimen container.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The stopper according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein the tapered annular flange section has a plurality of notches in a concave side thereof in a circumferential direction.

4. (Currently Amended) The stopper according to claim 1, wherein the annular flange inserting section includes a plurality of flange sections that tapered annular flanges which are projected from the cylindrical body of the inserting section at regular intervals along an axis of the cylindrical body.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The stopper according to claim 3, wherein the ~~annular flange~~ inserting section includes a plurality of ~~flange sections that tapered annular flanges which~~ are projected from the cylindrical body of the inserting section at regular intervals along an axis of the cylindrical body.

7. (Currently Amended) The stopper according to claim 3, wherein the inserting section, ~~and the closing section and the operating section~~ are integrally formed of polypropylene resin ~~integrally as one component~~.

8. (New) The stopper according to claim 6, wherein the inserting section and the closing section are integrally formed of polypropylene resin.

9. (New) A stopper for a tube-shaped container comprising:  
an inserting section sized to be inserted in the container; and  
a closing section attached to the inserting section and sized to close the container,  
wherein the inserting section and the closing section are integrally formed of an elastically-deformable material,

the inserting section comprising a cylindrical body and at least one tapered annular flange extending across a radial width larger than the container such that upon insertion of the inserting section into the container, the tapered annular flange is elastically deformed and is liquid-tightly pressed on an inner surface of the container.